

## **MINUTES**

### **Technical Committee Meeting**

Thursday, November 17, 2005

1:30 p.m.

Conference Room #113

**Members present:** Marvin Krout, David Cary, Planning; Roger Figard, Randy Hoskins, Virendra Singh, Larry Worth, Public Works/Utilities; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Steve McBeth, Rich Ruby, Dan Waddle (representing Randy Peters), James Miller (representing Jim Knott), Nebraska Department of Roads; Jon Large (representing John Wood), Lincoln Airport Authority; and Michael Heyl (representing Rick Thorson), Health Department

**Others present:** Mike Brienzo, Brian Praeuner, Karen Sieckmeyer, Public Works/Utilities; Ron Schlautman, Dalyce Ronnau, David Peterson, Nebraska Department of Roads; Jill Baker, Health Department; Dawn Steffen, Dan Norman, HWS; Dan Briggs, Phyllis Hergenrader, Mike Carlin, Friends of Wilderness Park; and Ed Patterson, Malone Neighborhood.

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Marvin Krout called the meeting to order at 1:30 and roll-call was taken.

#### **Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the October 20, 2005, Technical Committee Meeting.**

There being no corrections, David Cary made a motion to approve the minutes, Larry Worth seconded, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2 - Review and action on an amendment to the *Lincoln-Lancaster FY 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program* for Transportation Planning.**

Mike Brienzo stated that the Federal Highway Legislation SAFETEA-LU was passed by Congress which means that the MPO will receive an additional \$108,147 for planning purposes. We are requesting this amendment be placed in the Unified Planning Work Program which was accepted by this committee last summer. With the approval by the Technical Committee, the recommendation will be passed onto the Officials Committee for action; and then to the State to amend their contract with us to make these funds available for planning purposes. The areas that we plan on placing the funds would be Travel Model Development and Maintenance, \$12,684; Major Transportation Plan update for \$50,000; the Transportation Management or ITS planning activities for \$10,000; and Multi-Model Transportation planning for \$62,500 for a Transit Development Plan Study. The first three are existing items that have been approved by the MPO and this committee to be reflected in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Larry Worth updated the committee on the Transit Development Plan which is a transit study to determine efficiency and effectiveness of the system and also a route study. Beyond that, it is a longer range type evaluation. It will include any number of opportunities to make the transit system

better. This effectively is the continuance of the Downtown Study that has just finished. The continuation of the Multi-Model Study which was approved several months ago by this group. It is a very important part of the Long Range Transportation Plan in that there are aspects that probably would change the type of service that is being provided. This will be done over a two-year period starting next year and then finishing the following year so the funds would be split over two years.

There being no questions, a motion was made by Roger Figard to amend the Unified Work Program, seconded by Virendra Singh. Motion carried unanimously

**Agenda Item No. 3 - Discussion on the Federal Safe Routes to School Program established by SAFETEA-LU.**

David Cary stated that most of his information came from websites and the new Transportation Bill. Safe Routes to School is a program that has been in some communities for many years. In the latest Federal Transportation Bill, which is now signed into law, some funding was attached to this program. It also reads that the State Department of Transportation is responsible for the coordination and development of this program as well as hiring a full time person to administer the program.

Steve McBeth reported that the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) will be responsible for overseeing the program in Nebraska and the NDOR has taken the position that they want to hire a consultant to do this work. They have sent a letter to the Federal Highway Association (FHWA) requesting this proposal. The consultant will be the person who will be overseeing the program for the NDOR and if the FHWA is okay with this approach, NDOR will put out an RFP soliciting consultants who are interested in applying for this. Government Affairs Division will be the division at the NDOR who will be directly overseeing it. Ron Schlautman said that the FHWA is asking for information from each state as to how existing Safe Route to School Programs are being run in order to help them write the guidelines. As far as he knows the states can proceed especially if they have hired a coordinator. In order to get things moving, they will need to set up a priority system and public information system. There are hundreds of schools, communities, and city-county governments involved. All of these will have to receive public information on it and equal opportunity to apply for this. Virendra Singh wanted to add that Lincoln has had a program since 1963 which is updated on an annual basis. Singh said they would be very happy to work with the NDOR to provide them with any information that would be helpful. Brienzo said since this is Federal dollars, it needs to be identified in the TIP and also in the Long Range Transportation Plan for the MPO. Does the MPO have a roll or is it just based on application? Schlautman said any projects in the Lincoln area would have to be in the TIP. Figard asked if it would be appropriate or inappropriate for the MPO to be able to review the scope that is put out? They may all have their own interpretations and purposes of the law so Figard is willing to offer his services in preparing the Scope of Services for the RFP. McBeth said he would let the Government Affairs Division know, who is putting the scope together, that Figard has offered his help. Krout said that he appreciated the department's quick action on implementing the program.

**Item No. 4 - Other topics for discussion.**

Randy Hoskins informed the committee that there are six open houses on the Long Range Transportation Plan. These will be held on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th and 15th of December. The sub-committee, that was organized at the last meeting, will be contacted and requested to attend these open houses. There will be a station for the various sections that are included in the current Long Range Transportation Plan. These will not be informational sessions for those that come, but rather we will be asking individuals to come and give their input into what they would like to see in the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Ed Patterson with the Malone Neighborhood wanted to request safe access to Hartley School across 27th, access to Elliott School, and Lincoln High across "O" Street. He is confident that in time they will have a safe route in the Y Street bikepath overpass on 27th Street and have a safe route in the underpass associated with the Antelope Valley Project. He doesn't know how much it would cost or the labor associated with some type of video camera at the underpass because he noticed that in other states the underpass is a gathering place for people to live. Some of who are aggressive and some that are not. If you are sending your kids to school every day through the underpass, you would worry about that.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00.